

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 is canceled. Therefore, on entering this amendment, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 6, 8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 are allowed.

Claims 1,3 and 5 are rejected.

Claim 4 is objected to.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated Ohta (U.S. Patent Number 6,980,319 B2).

The Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 has been amended to place it in an independent form. T should now be allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 5 as being anticipated Ohta.

Claim 1 has been canceled, rendering its rejection moot.

Claims 3 and 5 are amended to now depend from claim 4. Therefore, they are now allowable.

Since there are no other grounds for the rejection of the pending claims, they must be allowed.

Application No. 09/986,698

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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